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the free press

Volume 40, Issue No. 22 May 4, 2009
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

As Swine Flu hits Maine, USM prepares for the worst

University to students: "wash your hands"

Daniel MacLeod
News Editor

With most of America and parts of the globe in full-scale panic over the H1N1 flu - or Swine Flu - pandemic, USM is currently bracing for the worst. The Critical Incidence Response Team (CIRT), headed by Vice President for Student and University Life Craig Hutchinson, convened last Monday to develop plans to stem a potential outbreak at USM, and to plan for the event of a forced closure.

The CIRT - which convened previously after the series of bomb threats at USM in 2006 and 2007, and during the Avian

flu scare of 2005 - is made up of representatives from University Health Services, Employee Health, Residential Life, USM Police, the Office of Public Affairs, Academic Affairs, and the Registrar's Office.

After CIRT's first meeting last Monday, Craig Hutchinson sent out a mass e-mail to university students, faculty and staff, which stressed that the pandemic does not represent a "crisis situation." At the time that Hutchinson wrote the e-mail, there were no reported cases of Swine Flu in Maine. In the week since, there have been six confirmed cases in the state.

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ILLUSTRATION BY
RANDY HAZELTON / PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Garbage pail guys

USM composting start-up wins \$25,000 in Student Business Plan Competition



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRETT RICHARDSON

The Organic Alchemy team, seen here accepting their \$10,000 "big check" outside of The Wishcamper Center, recently won the 2009 USM Student Business Plan Competition. Left to right is: Richard Barringer, Brett Richardson, Charles Colgan, Jack Kartez, Greg Williams, and William Foster.

Matt Dodge
Executive Editor

Greg Williams' and Brett Richardson's futures are in the garbage, and it could end up making them a lot of money.

As the winners of the 2009 USM Student Business Plan Competition (SBPC), the two Muskie School grad students won \$25,000 in start-up funds to turn one of Portland's most abundant resources - food waste - into an eco-friendly business.

The result? Organic Alchemy Composting, an idea that addresses both the economic and environmental concerns of local restaurants in one symbiotic, moneymaking venture.

"Our primary objective is to save our clients money, while reducing their environmental footprint," says Williams. "We'll do that by providing a reliable and convenient system for diverting their organic waste, and transforming it into high quality com-

post."

Organic Alchemy hopes to entice customers with a below-market rate for waste removal. Food scraps will then be taken to a composting site outside of the city, and naturally broken down into a soil additive to be sold to local farmers and gardeners.

Born over brews in a favorite West End bar last winter, the idea for Organic Alchemy was spurred by a research paper Williams worked on in his first semester economics class about similar food waste diversion plans in place throughout the country.

The research paper then led to a project by Williams, in which he theorized what the concept, would look like in a food-obsessed city like Portland.

With over 250 restaurants, each generating on average 25 tons of waste a year, Portland is a city ripe for the trash picking.

"We were both inspired by the

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“I suspected that there was beginning to be worry based on the weekend media coverage devoted to the issue, which certainly can crank it up in people’s minds,” Hutchinson said.

“At the point that I sent that out, the issue was still quite a ways away, geographically. I had not heard of a lot of worry at that point, but I was anticipating that what has now occurred, would occur.”

Now that the pandemic has hit closer to home, USM is starting to more seriously consider scenarios that would require the school to close – and what to do about it.

“We are working on plans for a variety of possibilities connected to a variety of directions that this issue could go in. One of those would be having to discontinue classes and or operations for some period of time,” Hutchinson said last Tuesday.

Whether or not the school would have to close down is a call that would ultimately be made by the Maine Center for Disease Control (CDC) according to several people on CIRT.

“The final week of classes and finals week is probably the worst time of the academic year to try to change the schedule. But if it has to be done, it has to be done,” says Bob Caswell, executive director of Public Affairs at USM.

If the CDC does in fact recommend that USM close, CIRT will have more problems to address, says Caswell.

“Are we going to make provisions for take-home exams, online exams, what kind of accommodations can we make for students?,” he asks.

Most likely, the trigger that would prompt the school’s closing is a confirmed case of Swine Flu among one or more USM students, says Kristine Bertini, director of University Health and Counseling Services.

“We have a contact person with the CDC that we routinely speak with to update the status of ‘the bug,’” says Bertini.

“The CDC guides us in all of those questions. They would tell us that it’s serious enough that we need to shut down the school, classes, or community gatherings,” she said.

“If the doctor suspects a positive case, they’ll do some testing, they’ll call the CDC. The CDC will then follow the test results to see if the person is infected. And then the CDC will make the decision about whether or not anything should be closed,” she says.

Health Services recently placed an order for a small amount of Tamiflu – the recommended treatment for Swine Flu – with their distributor, Pharmetics. But the most that they would send the university is five doses.

“Our supplier would only let us order a tiny amount at a time. We’re not a pharmacy. We have a little bit of a formulary of things like anti-biotics that we can prescribe, but it’s fairly complicated,” says Ann Conley, clinical director for Health Services in Portland.

Health services can write prescriptions in the case that a student they see contracts the virus. The small amount that they ordered is meant for those students

who don’t have health insurance.

“They can put it on their student bill if they need to,” Conley says.

Tamiflu, which costs around \$115 at Rite-Aid or Hannaford’s, costs the university around \$100 per dose, she says. Conley does not know how much each dose would cost for students. They expect to get the drug on campus by Wednesday.

According to Bob Caswell much of what CIRT is doing right now is centered on getting the word out about how to avoid contracting the flu, and what to do if you think you do have it.

“The focus right now is on what’s simple and effective. Wash your hands. If you’re exhibiting flu-like symptoms, stay home,” he said.

The university has been placing hand sanitizer all around entryways and exits to common areas, dining halls and dormitories, he says.

University employees have also been paying extra attention to sanitation. Aramark employees have started stepping in at what once were self-service areas to avoid too many people touching foods directly. Health services has stocked up on gloves and masks.

“We are working on a variety of things all designed to firm up contingency plans in the effect that the campus is impacted directly by this particular issue, including working on plans for care for people who may become sick,” says Hutchinson.

Mark Allen, at Aramark, says that they have plans for each level of a pandemic’s severity.

“Based upon what the stages are, we have different action plans. Part of that includes being prepared to being able to handle essential personnel feeding on campus, as well as making sure we’re doing everything with our staff to make sure we’re handling food products very very safely,” he says.

Aramark has not changed their menu since news of the outbreak has surfaced, but they have started to plan in the event that the U.S. closes down their borders.

“We’ve begun to place orders with alternative suppliers should they close state borders and we need to buy stuff locally,” Allen says.

The university is also trying to make pertinent information available from the USM website. Right now, the University Health Services website has a link to the CDC page which provides general information about Swine Flu.

But the best advice that anybody can offer to prevent the spread of Swine Flu is simple, says Bertini: wash your hands.

“Even though it sounds hokey, it’s really the thing that works.”

For more information on Swine Flu, visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov.

From **GARBAGE** on page 1

power of the idea, and convinced Portland would be a perfect place to implement it,” says Williams.

“We see our hometown as a great place to start up a business like Organic Alchemy Composting,” says Williams.

“Portland is a young, creative, and socially progressive city that takes a great deal of pride in supporting environmental causes and local businesses.”

Williams and Richardson have both been involved with environmental organizations in the past, and are both about to graduate with master’s degrees from the Muskie School of Public Service.

“We both entered Muskie with aspirations of forging careers in planning and public policy,” says Williams. “Solid waste was not in our original plan.”

But plans change, and Organic Alchemy has the potential to act as a platform for just the type of public policy reform the members hope to make their livelihood.

“We will collaborate with state and local officials in advancing policy goals, and work with Portland’s residents and businesses to make our city an even better place to live and work,” says Williams.

For the Organic Alchemy team, the SBPC was a chance to see how business professionals would judge their business plan – and if nothing else, would save the duo the tedious trial-and-error phase of many small-business start-ups.

“Winning first place was a huge momentum builder and confirmed the viability of this idea,”

says Williams.

But Williams and Richardson did not just coast on their good ideas all the way to the SBPC’s \$10,000 in prize money and \$15,000 in professional service support, such as lawyers and accountants.

“They had a very good plan,” says Valerie Lamont, director of USM’s Center for Entrepreneurship. “They had already developed an advisory board, had their financials down – they were the ones who seemed to have all the I’s dotted.”

Started in 2001, the SBPC started accepting submissions outside of USM after it’s first two years. This year, it drew 33 proposals from college students around the state.

Originally funded by members of the local business community, USM’s and the School of Business have recently started to contribute to the prize money.

But success has not only come for those teams awarded the over-size checks.

“The non-winning teams are doing very well also,” says Lamont. “Even [they] are launching their businesses.”

For some young entrepreneurs, the SBPC has allowed them to develop important networking opportunities within the Portland businesses community.

“Because I was a finalist in the USM Business Plan Competition, I was offered a year of free space at Maine Center for Enterprise Development and I was also a grant recipient from the Libra Future Fund which helped me with my start up funds,” says 2006 SBPC finalist

Becky Stockbridge, who used the competition as a springboard to launch her web design firm, iBeCreative. Stockbridge now employs several people at her office space on Congress St.

The team of William Sulinski and James Daniels took the 2008 SBPC with “mCaddie” – now called AccelGolf – a social networking, GPS-scorecard application for the mobile internet devices, and the booming iPhone application market that costs six dollars a month.

The AccelGolf team not only launched their business immediately, but went on to seek further funding through similar competitions and grants. This includes a first place, \$15,000 payday for the team in The Queen’s Entrepreneurs’ Competition, an event held in Kingston, Ontario where they beat out 16 teams with their range-finding, performance tracking app.

The team is well on their way to being another SBPC success story, in no small part because of a \$240,000 grant from the Maine Technology Institute, provided they can come up with \$200,000 in matching funds from outside investors.



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More bad news

On cusp of finalizing budget, USM gets curveball from Baldacci

Daniel MacLeod

News Editor

Over the past academic year, USM's Chief Financial Officer Dick Campbell has had his hands full.

Continuing cuts in the form of curtailed state appropriations have made the base amount of money that USM has to work with a constantly shifting amount. Last Friday, Maine Governor John Baldacci announced an across the board cut in state funding of government programs based on the newest information by the state's Revenue Forecasting Committee. The University of Maine System's share of that is \$2.1 million dollars.

USM receives approximately 25% of UMaine systems appropriations. Based on this funding formula, Campbell says that roughly \$500,000 will be cut from the state appropriations for USM.

The university is currently in the midst of balancing next year's budgetary gap of more than \$4 million; a task that must be completed and presented to the board of trustees by May 11.

But with the state legislature's appropriations for 2010-2011 still pending, how much can the university plan for?

"That's my question as well," says Campbell.

"I think the thing that it requires more than anything else, and is also the hardest thing to have, is patience. There is great uncertainty. But I'm very hopeful that this is going to be the turning point."

USM has had a hard year. At the start of the fall semester, it seemed as though the school's budget – which had been diagnosed by outside consulting firm PriceWaterhouseCooper as "a mess" – was nearly balanced. In November, the state announced it's preliminary appropriations budget for 2010, which included \$2.7 million in cuts for USM. After a round of layoffs and cut-backs, it seemed like USM was going to be okay once again – minus about 65 employees.

Then in February, President Selma Botman announced the newest round of bad news: USM was in the hole \$4.3 million for fiscal year 2010-11. The gap was blamed on declines in investment revenue, and the effects of decreased state funding over the next two years.

So now, with less than two weeks left before the university must present their balanced budget

to the board of trustees, the school gets hit with more bad news: USM must cut \$500,000 from next year's budget.

"We're continuing to work toward meeting our original goal which was a reduction of about \$4 million. We're very close," says Campbell.

Over the past month, USM's deans, program directors and vice presidents have been working to come up with more money to cut from already lean programs. But according to Campbell, these budgets are constantly changing.

"It is an ongoing process that we will continue to work on and plan in ways that will position us to get through this time and to succeed further in the future," he said.

"It's always easier to make decisions where there is greater certainty, but you always are making decisions that involve some level of risk. Right now there are more risk factors than there might be otherwise."

Another thing that makes planning for next year's budget difficult is swine flu.

"It's not inconceivable that folks may decide to avoid large gatherings. If we had to close the first week of summer session, that's going to have an impact on revenues," says Campbell.

The fact that the school is considering the effect of something as seemingly non-related as a flu pandemic in their budget planning shows just how close they are cutting it these days.

One dim hope that the university has right now is USM's share of the federal stimulus money – around \$1.3 million – which they have held out on applying for until they knew exactly how much they needed.

"We have to go through a process of applying for that," says Campbell.

"There are certain costs that can be covered by the stimulus money and certain things that can't."

For instance, the money cannot be used to increase university endowments, build new buildings, restore rainy day funds or renovate or build new athletic facilities.

When USM presents their budget for 2010-11 to the Board of Trustees next Monday, Campbell says that they will do so with the understanding that information is constantly changing.

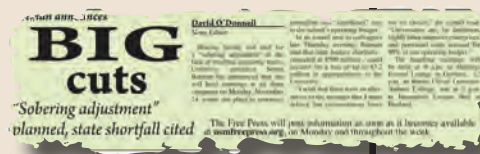
"We're all working together to collect and provide the most accurate information that we can."

"Death by a thousand cuts"

A year in USM budget news

November 2008

State announces curtailment of \$2.7 million.



January 2009

Pattenaude projects \$42.8 million shortfall over next 4 years.

Budget gap widens

Pattenaude announces \$42.8 million shortfall over the next four years

Matt Dodge
Executive Editor
In an effort to create a financial sustainable university system, USM Chancellor Richard Patten announced last week that the university is facing a \$42.8 million shortfall over the next four years. Patten said the shortfall is due to a combination of factors, including a decline in state funding and a need to cut costs across the university. He said the university is working to address the shortfall through a series of measures, including layoffs and program cuts. Patten said the university is committed to maintaining its academic quality while addressing the financial challenges.

February 2009

USM cuts Lifeline community fitness program.

University cuts Lifeline

Community fitness program to close doors this summer

more cuts to follow

David MacLeod
The Lifeline community fitness program, which has been a popular feature of the USM campus, is set to close its doors this summer. The program, which offers free access to gym equipment and classes, is being cut as part of a series of measures to address the university's budget gap. Chancellor Richard Patten said the program is not essential to the university's core mission and that the funds can be better used elsewhere. He said the university is committed to maintaining its academic quality while addressing the financial challenges.

February 2009

Family and Child Services is cut.

USM to shut down day care



March 2009

Botman announces 2010-11 budget deficit of \$4.3 million.



March 2009

USM cuts Enrichment classes from Center for Continuing Education.

USM cuts arts, culture from CCE

'These aren't our students' says Botman, as cuts continue




April 2009

In his biannual "State of the University" address, Pattenaude asks state for continuing support of the University of Maine.

JSM scrambles
shore up deficit by early May
Pattenaude: 'more tough decisions are coming'

David MacLeod
The University of Maine System is scrambling to shore up its budget deficit by early May. Chancellor Richard Patten said the university is facing a \$4.3 million deficit for the 2010-11 fiscal year. He said the university is committed to maintaining its academic quality while addressing the financial challenges. Patten said the university is working to address the deficit through a series of measures, including layoffs and program cuts. He said the university is committed to maintaining its academic quality while addressing the financial challenges.



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May 2009
After newest tax data is compiled, state cuts an additional \$500,000 from appropriations for USM.

Free Press Political Primer: While you were sleeping (through class)

A recap of some of the latest twists and turns in Augusta and Washington, and what to be look for in the news this summer

David O'Donnell

Staff Writer

The fight over gay marriage in Maine is far from over, and both sides have reason to be optimistic.

In one corner: the bill that would allow same-sex couples to wed zipped through committee and was passed by the state senate in a 21 to 14 vote. Next up, the House of Representatives followed by Governor Baldacci's desk.

It would seem Maine is on track to be the second state to legalize gay marriage via an elected body rather than through court rulings. But the legislature's work is no less vulnerable - opponents of same-sex marriage say a peoples' veto effort would be the obvious next step, and it would stand more than a fighting chance at rolling back gay marriage rights just months after they're granted.

Polls show Mainers are about evenly split on the issue, and religious conservatives have proven adept in nudging those margins through advertising. Their latest spokesperson is Miss USA runner-up Carrie Prejean, who blames her defeat on her opposition to gay marriage rights, and has given the movement its latest - possibly first - celebrity endorsement. Don't be surprised if you see her at any clam festivals this summer.

Maine's senators have been making national news lately, though more for what's happening around them than for anything they've done recently.

First, the dwindling ranks of Republican moderates lost Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter, who unexpectedly switched parties to become a Democrat last week. This not only opened him up to a snappy new nickname, Specter the Defector, but tipped the delicate balance of the U.S. Senate and left this state's two senators feeling awfully lonely out there.

A New York Times op-ed by Olympia Snowe scolded not Specter for the move, but the Republicans for making him feel so unwanted and taking such hardline stances against all things not ultra-conservative. Could she be close behind? Probably not, since party switches are a big deal and Specter wasn't even up for it until his seat was convincingly threatened for the 2010 primary. Nevertheless, there's a good chance that both Collins and Snowe received quite a few flowers and chocolates over the weekend.

Susan Collins has been getting even more love in the national press over something other than her party affiliation: in one of her signature "moderate moves", she had been instrumental in altering President Obama's beloved \$787 billion stimulus package. The re-

sults didn't please conservatives too much - she ended up voting for the spending package after cutting just a small fraction of the total - but she was very vocal over some of the measures she helped chop off:

"Everybody in the room is concerned about a pandemic flu, but does it belong in this bill? Should we have \$870 million [for it] in this bill? No, we should not."

Needless to say, lines like that registered much differently in the face of the swine flu near-pandemic, which claimed the life of a toddler on U.S. soil on Tuesday and killed over a hundred Mexicans south of the border. Collins' office was quick to assert her support - even advocacy - for such preparedness funding in general, just not in the economic recovery package. Look for Collins to be even more receptive to such funding for the foreseeable future.

Democrats are now just inches away from holding a supermajority in Congress. If former comedian/SNL castmember/progressive radio host and author Al Franken finally wins the long, long recount that's been taking place in Minnesota since last November - and it looks like he very well might - they will have 60 seats in the Senate, exactly enough to stop Republicans from holding up legislation with a filibuster.

The filibuster is a procedure that allows slim minorities to stop a bill dead in its tracks by imitating Jimmy Stewart in *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* and refusing to cede the chamber floor. Republicans were staunchly opposed to the filibuster during the heyday of their rule back in 2003, when Maine's two senators joined a 'gang of 14' that saved GOP leadership from eliminating the protection altogether.

Now, of course, the parties have swapped places in regard to the 'buster, and while the Democrats haven't threatened to go nuclear on the very idea of it, it's doubtful they'd refrain from overriding it for initiatives like health care reform and confirming Obama's judicial nominees.

Speaking of judicial nominees, President Obama will be offering up a big one in the coming months. Supreme Court Justice David H. Souter has announced that he's retiring at the end of the court's current session.

This will be the first Supreme Court vacancy of Obama's presidency, and it's one of the chief ideological perks of the job - Supreme Court appointments being *lifetime* and all. This session alone has found the court weighing in on issues such as church-state separation, lawsuits against tobacco companies, and the repercussions of swearing on TV.

Some sites

- **Recovery** - *recovery.gov* - Track the status of federal stimulus money.
- **Maine Recovery** - *maine.gov/recovery* - For a strictly local look at how Maine's using the funds.
- **ThinkProgress** - *thinkprogress.com* - One of the most influential progressive think tanks has perhaps the most comprehensive blog on the liberal perspective of daily events. Rich in video.
- **The Corner** - *corner.nationalreview.com* - National Review is William F. Buckley's conservative institution, and their blog is one of the liveliest and most tasteful spots for a right-wing take on politics and world events.
- **FiveThirtyEight** - *fivethirtyeight.com* - One of the best sources for crunching election 2008 poll numbers last fall successfully morphed into a great source for poll data and trend-spotting period.
- **Maine Politics** - *mainepolitics.net* - Keep on top of what's happening in the statehouse and with Maine's representatives in Washington with this sporadically-updated blog.

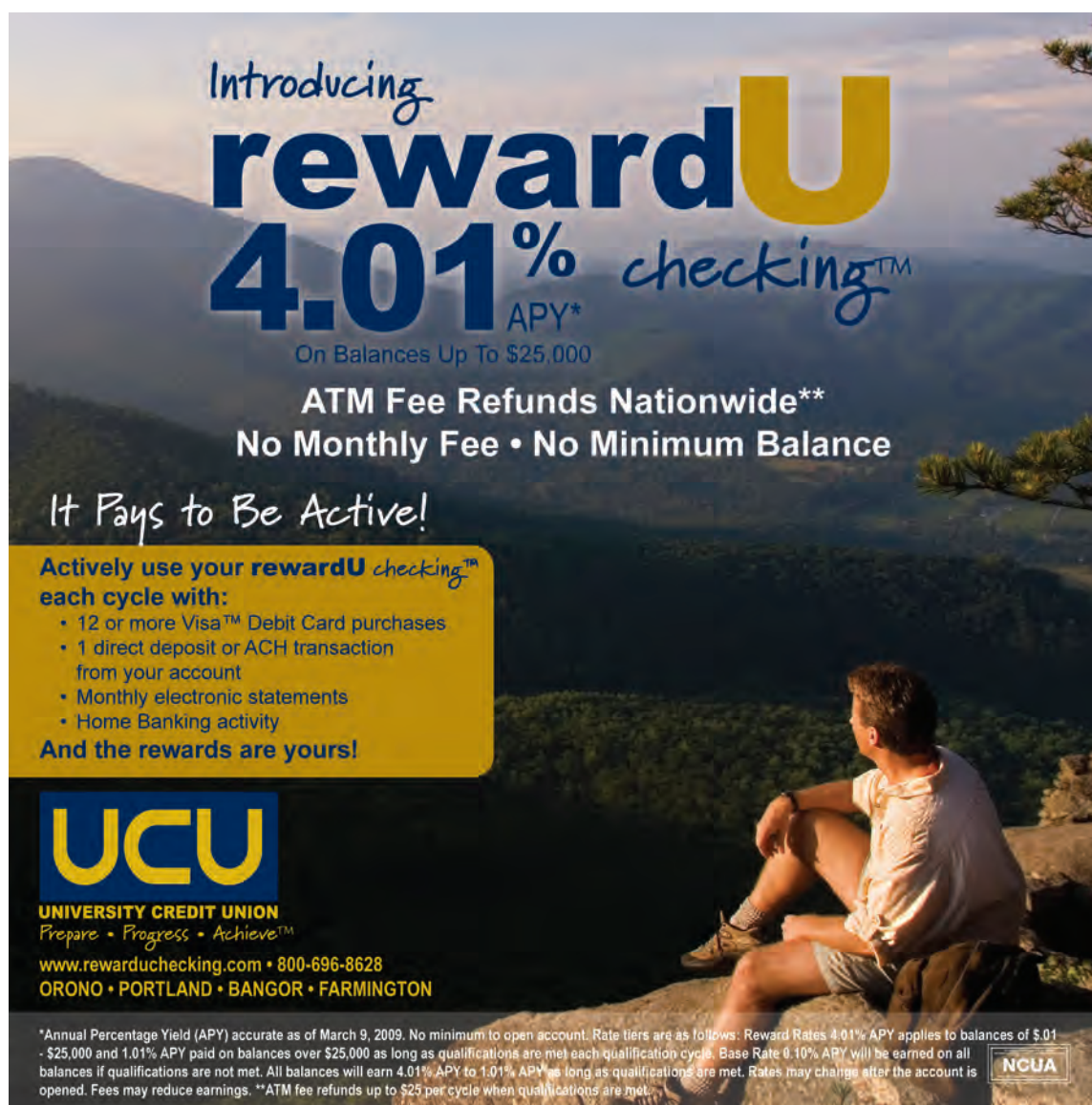
Finding a replacement for Souter will not alter the liberal/conservative balance by much, assuming the President will find somebody who shares his liberal politics. Souter himself is a reliable liberal vote, though illustrative of the wildcard nature of the Court: he was appointed by conservative Republican President George H.W. Bush back in 1990.



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PERSPECTIVES

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Apology from the editor

Owning up to a insensitive oversight

This week, I am using this forum to formally apologize to any members of the USM community who might have been offended by an ad we ran in last week's paper. I would like to thank one reader in particular for bringing this advertisement to my attention.

The ad in question ran on page two of last week's issue (Vol. 40, Issue 21), and was a promotion for website that does not go as far as to deny that the Holocaust of WWII ever happened, but still makes some unsavory accusations about the specific events and aspects of the genocide.

Seeing as this is our last issue of the semester, I could just sweep this one under the rug, hope that no one noticed, and hide away until the Free Press news cycle starts up again next year. However, I have too much respect for our readership to ignore something that could potentially be so hurtful.

I would just like to make it clear that while this ad does not exactly violate our policy standards that prohibit us from printing "discriminatory ads", I personally find the Holocaust debunking motif to be a disrespectful and insensitive line of inquiry that could accomplish nothing positive, and only stands to open up old wounds and painful memories.

I am not in the habit of attacking our advertisers. They are what keep publications like ours running on a week-to-week basis. But on this occasion, I am shamed to have funded any part of this

paper with revenues from the sale of this ad. I apologize Bradley Smith, the man who submitted this ad, if it seems like I used his patronage as a jumping-off point for an attacking response, but my conscious would not let this incident go unrecognized.

Smith, who submitted this ad in support of his site, claims to be spurring this discussion as a means for settings straight a historical record that has been too muddled in politically correct sensitivity. Smith's primary platform questions the exact means of genocide sites like Auschwitz – specifically, the use of gas chambers.

While Smith may have a legitimate cause for wanting to set the record straight, I would argue that such lines of inquiry are too inflammatory and ultimately meaningless when placed in a larger context. Is it really worth stirring up a lifetime of painful, heart-wrenching memories to set a minor historical fact straight? Does it really matter what means were used to kill six million Jews? Is this at all important to anyone outside of a small minority of obsessive history buffs with little regard for the suffering of an entire generation of people?

As a journalist, I wholeheartedly believe in the tenants of free speech. However, without a compelling reason, such speech can serve little purpose but to offend and inflame.

There can be no excuses made for let-

ting this submissions slip in. It is my job as editor, first and foremost, to go over every aspect of the paper. In spending so much time spell-checking news articles and combing over perspectives pieces, it's easy to let the little things slip by unnoticed.

I once again want to apologize to anyone who this advertisement might have offended. I promise our readership that advertisements will be much more carefully reviewed in the future, and any content of this nature will be kept out of The Free Press. I hope we have not shaken your faith in our publication too deeply, and will practice more vigilance in our future editorial practices.

Thanks for reading,



Matt Dodge

THE F WORD

A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

by Taryn Yudaken

Change is in the air

A look at our increasingly progressive society.

Around this time of year, when school is ending, friends are graduating, and summer anticipation is restlessly lingering, there usually seems to be a sense of transition in the air. This year is no different; in fact, the feeling of change is slowly stirring everywhere.

Change - because it's what we were promised; it's what over half of us voted for, and what most of us are waiting for. Perhaps some have grown too disillusioned to not be cynical, but others are crossing our fingers (or even better, working actively) for tangible, positive progress... in people, in government, in laws and civil rights, in health, in the economy, in our treatment of the environment, in technology, in, basically, everything.

Right now, we are making history – and we are living in it, in this undefined moment where our morals and values are continually challenged. We fight globally, nationally, locally and even (if not always) in our own homes. Over the past couple years there has been more separation and disagreement than ever, and we're coming to a point where the stakes of progression are high. Political lies are constantly being revealed, the fight for equal rights is rampant, and now we have the first black president of

one of the most influential countries in the world. And whether at a social gathering or on an online news site, everyone seems to have something to say about everything. Be it good or bad, there seems to be a lot to speculate about.

The economy is coming down hard on people already struggling or in poverty (most of us broke college students are probably feeling that one). Businesses are certainly feeling the heat too, but not enough that they would have to stop making oppressive commercials and sending society mixed messages (turn on the TV and witness ten women, identical in size and appeal, gushing and cooing over a man and his mini-burgers--thanks for degrading women everywhere, BK). And as usual, society is in its everlasting morality battle; right vs. left, gay vs. straight, trees vs. trucks, love vs. hate. Conservatives are worried about gay-marriage devaluing their freedom, government can't seem to separate church and state, there are anti-drug commercials in between Family Guy's 4/20 episode about legalizing pot, and Spongebob Squarepants is hanging out with seductively dancing school girls in a corrupt attempt to sell french fries to kids.

As confusing as it all is, if I have

learned anything this year, it's that there are places of resistance. Although money problems are devastating us, perhaps this threat of a recessions has kicked a few people into some earth-friendlier habits – leaving lights off to save money and simultaneously save energy, finding ways to carpool and consume less oil, that kind of thing. Another matter is that the media is sleazy as ever, but there is hope (and a campaign against Burger King). And although there are shamelessly hateful and expensive anti-same-sex marriage broadcasts, there are also huge organizations of activists who work 24/7 to achieve full civil rights for everyone (also reason to celebrate, there is Steven Colbert's "giant gay storm" parody ad).

The point is that where some areas of the everyday life we are exposed to are politically incorrect and/or falling apart, other areas are growing stronger as people are rediscovering fundamental truths about what may be important. Society is full of contradictions, but progressive steps are slowly being taken. Change is in the air.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Comments regarding “Student Senate Optimistic Despite Turnout”

I have some comments regarding the article “Student Senate Optimistic Despite Turnout” by Charlie Nickell that appeared in the Free Press on April 6th, 2009. My comments are specifically regard what Student Senator Matthew Taget said regarding on-campus offenses by students. In the article he is quoted as saying, “Right now, if an underage student is accused of possession of alcohol on campus, they are automatically charged an administrative fee and forced to take a class on substance abuse whether they are guilty or not. I’d like to see steps taken where the student will have the right to defend their case.” Well, I have serious problems with the Senator’s statements, because such steps presently exist. Any student accused of violation of the student conduct code (including possession of alcohol) has a right to appeal the findings of the Office of Community Standards to the Student Conduct Committee, of which I am a member. If a student appeals, a group of 3-7 students will hold a hearing with

the student and vote on the charges and any sanctions. While it is true that students are automatically charged a \$35 administrative fee, this fee is waived if the student is eventually not held accountable for any violations. This grave lack of understanding on the part of the senator only points to the greater issue that the student senate and the Free Press are unaware of many entities on campus and how many issues involving students are dealt with. Overcoming this problem is where Senator Taget and the other senators should focus their efforts.

Kristopher Fecteau

Response to CODOH Advertisement

I do not mean to be accusatory, but frankly, one of the advertisements in the Free Press last week left a foul taste in my mouth. It was an ad placed by CODOH, the Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust, asking students to find one professor who would submit a name and evidence of one

person who died in a gas chamber at Auschwitz. As stated on the Free Press website says, the Press “does not accept discriminatory ads”. Well, I guess this one doesn’t count?

I work at the USM Interfaith Chaplaincy, and everyone in my office was shocked by this advertisement. I am not Jewish, nor do I have any known family members who have been directly affected by the tragedies of WWII and the Holocaust. But reading that ad made me angry and feel sick to my stomach. CODOH can believe what it wants to – that is none of my business. After all, people didn’t land on the moon, either. But I do NOT want to read such an ad in the USM Free Press ever again. I suggest the editors of the newspaper redefine “discriminatory.”

Erin Watson

**Want to be heard?
Write a letter to the editor.
E-mail our
executive editor,
Matt Dodge
at
mdodge18@gmail.com**

or go to our website

usmfreepress.org

**and click on
“Letters to the Editor”
to send us your thoughts**

OP/ED

The Husky Film Festival...what happened?

I attended USM’s annual Husky Film Festival last night, and it was an incredible disappointment. There were less than 30 people attending, and half of those people were event staff. Only five films were submitted, and three of them from the same student (who happened to win two of the three film awards). I only found two of the submitted films entertaining, so overall this event was a major letdown.

I was interested in how this one would turn out because last semester’s film festival didn’t even happen. It was canceled because no one submitted films, even after a month’s worth of advertising and promotion. The film festivals that happened before that were a lot bigger, with greater attendance and more film submissions, so now it seems like the Husky Film Festival is in a downward slope... and I think I know why.

First off, a little preface: I belonged to the Community of Arts (COA) floor in Robie-Andrews hall last year (as I do now), and it was filled with many creative students, ranging from musicians to artists to filmmakers to welders (yup). A lot of these students either involved themselves or supported the filmmaking that happened on this floor and many of them would attend the Husky Film Festival for this reason.

Last year, the two Husky Film Festivals saw large audiences with a good number of film submissions. I remember having a great time at both events with

all of my friends, whether the movies were really awesome, weird or downright bad. Whether or not the films were any good, the event was still a great time for anyone who attended, and I hoped it would stay that way for years to come... but then there was the incident.

My friend Justin Brown directed a hilarious, foul-mouthed comedy skit by the name of “Shit Hard.” Before it was submitted to the Husky Film Fest, there were many screenings held where it received a great positive response from the Community of Arts floor and beyond. The video was eventually uploaded to Youtube where the good responses continued to come in. While the video’s language was extremely profane and dirty, the use and delivery was so dead-on and preposterous that it made for an excellent absurdist comedy sketch. Do a quick Youtube search on “Shit Hard” and watch it.

If you like what you just saw, you will probably be outraged to hear that this film got rejected by the Husky Film Fest Academy. When many of the COA floor members learned of this news, they were greatly angered. To me, the academy’s decision was not only faulty, but it greatly hurt the respect and integrity of this annual event. Let me explain.

The short “Shit Hard” exemplifies the kind of humor that many college students would enjoy nationwide, if not worldwide. If you’ve ever seen any-

thing on CollegeHumor.com or DerrickComedy.com, you would know this film is on the same level in production, humor and absurdity. While “Shit Hard” never got around to getting submitted to the College Humor website, the popularity and infection of this video remains to be high as it did when first released. As of right now, the Youtube video has been viewed 17,757 times, favorited 231 times and rated 156 times with an average rating of 4.5 stars. I looked at the in-depth stats of the video, and it still gets viewed around 20 or more times per week on average. In addition, the video is still being swapped around on message boards and social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.

Anyhow, the academy’s rejection lead to a major protest by the Community of Arts floor and fellow supporters. There were well over 50 people striking outside the Husky Film Festival’s location the night of the screening. The USM Free Press ran an article on the protest last year (simply search “Husky Film Festival on the Free Press website). While many of the protesters joined the film festival when the screenings started (mostly because some other friends had movies submitted), many of them were finished with the idea of this film festival.

For the following Husky Film Fest, a new restriction was applied in light of the “Shit Hard” incident: all submitted films must

now follow the guidelines of a PG-13 movie. All films must also follow the University’s Conduct Code (the only possible restriction that would apply to “Shit Hard” would be the “lewd and indecent behavior” rule). The Community of Arts floor including myself found this news extremely ridiculous and felt that this was the final nail on the coffin. The idea of a college film festival having to appease to middle school aged kids is downright demeaning and destroys the mature atmosphere of a college event. We are all adults here! If anything had to be done to allow for the viewing of “Shit Hard”, they should have added a small warning before the film played. Then anyone who might be offended by the crude language could leave and then come back when the video was over.

The worst part about this is that an official viewing of Judd Apatow’s “Knocked Up” happened on the campus weeks before this whole incident occurred. Not only is there a scene that shows a newborn baby cresting, but there are lines such as “I would tear that ass up,” “Hey, Jay, do you use that Canadian leaf tattoo as like a cum target?” and “She like-a the way your dick taste.” If this isn’t on the same level of lewdness and indecency as “Shit Hard,” I don’t know what is. Not only is this hypocritical of the academy and institution, but it makes the University appear to place value on high-budget Hollywood productions

over its own student-made films. If we want the university to be a nurturing and academic environment for students, we then cannot make them subject to meaningless double standards.

What seems so ironic is that the organizers of the film festival are also leaders of the Community of Arts program that so many of these protesters were a part of. After the event happened, a great tension was created between the actual community and the people leading it. This whole conflict was a big mistake by the COA leaders and it ultimately lead to their community’s loss of interest in the event.

The PG-13 rule should get revoked for next year’s film festival, and an apology should be given to Justin Brown and everyone else involved in making that short. In addition, explicit movies like “Shit Hard” should not be judged based upon their language, but in their ability to entertain and engage an audience. If we can get past this ugly dilemma, the Husky Film Festival will be able to grow again and regain its title as a worthy and respectable college tradition (with a discretionary warning if needed).

—Dylan Martin

ARTS & Entertainment

Page 9. DVD battle
Page 10. Review of "Words and Images 2009"
Page 12. Brew review

Playful and quirky *Biennial Art Exhibit at Portland Museum of Art*

Meghan McCaffrey
Staff Writer

The Biennial art exhibit at Portland Museum of Art is bursting with energy and quirky, playful art. For example, Sean Foley's "Menace," comprised of oil, acrylic, linen, and steel, is unique in the cartoon-like shapes and bold colors that gallop across the canvas onto the wall. Your scanning back and forth will eventually fall into focus at the center on something a shade darker. "Visionary," Susan Prince Thompson's rendering of see-through paper bag art, was strikingly intricate, yet childlike in its simplicity, proving that you don't need a lot to make a piece of art.

Lack of pretense is a refreshing theme of The Biennial exhibit; it serves as a reminder that artistic vision, not ostentation, creates astounding pieces. The most outstanding piece was also the most unusual. In the lobby of PMA stands a two-story house pieced together with bits of old and new wood. The exterior has no curb appeal, natural wood siding, and the "bathroom" was an outhouse cast twenty-five feet away with pictures of naked girls inside. Ethan Hayes' "The Hermitage" is a celebration of what used to be, a simple but sturdy house that's warm and cozy. I heard numerous people whispering "I wish this was my house," or "I like it; it's so simple." The house was comprised of dusty copies of National Geographic and posters of unknown places taped to the unpainted walls. The furniture including the wood stove was practical but simple. There was no gaudiness or impressive technology on the walls, which brings to mind the question what do we really need? And perhaps a cozy house filled with happy memories and dreams is better than a new house, supplied with thousands of updates and the latest technology.

Visiting the Biennial Exhibit is like transporting into a different world where quirkiness is refreshingly beautiful while sleek and showy art is meaningless and empty. The Biennial Exhibit will be at the Portland Museum of Art until June 7. The museum hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday- Sunday, and 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Fridays. The museum is free from 5-9 p.m. on Friday nights.



Eric Allen
Chris Lee
Robert Bell
Marissa L. Coleman
Thomas Green
David Hays
G. David Smith
James Thompson
Ethan Hayes-Chute
Zoej Marie Holmstrom
Wally Kershner
Steven Perkins
Andy Rosen
Jeffrey Shuman
Susan Prince Thompson
Sean Foley

2009
Portland Museum of Art
Biennial

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART
From top to bottom: "Let's not and say we did"
2008 by Andy Rosen; "Hermitage" 2009 by Ethan
Hayes-Chute

BREW REVIEW

by Mike Tardiff

Recession-proof beers

A wise man once told me that no matter how bad things are, people will drink. And it’s true. But with a tanking economy comes understandably lower expectations. That’s why this week I’ll be reviewing the cheapest of the cheap:

the beers you find stacked up to the ceiling at grocery stores and packed into any gas station cooler. While they’re not the tastiest of brews, they’re brews nonetheless.

Note: All grades are based on a bell-curve. Otherwise, all of these beers would receive failing grades.



BUD LIGHT

If Bud Heavy is the king of beers, I’m not sure what this is - maybe the court jester? This is a grainy, corny and watery brew. It pours a pale straw color and smells like wet hay and aluminum. The taste is thin without any semblance of hops, malt character or, well, beer. More like the water left over after steaming rice, this beer’s best quality is its lightness.

This is the worst of the lot. Not only is it watered down, it’s tasteless and not very refreshing.

D



COORS LIGHT

It’s really no wonder Coors’ selling point with this beer is the water. That’s pretty much all it brings to the table. Pouring almost identically to any other mass-produced beer, it’s an extremely light offering - the perfect beer to accompany t-shirt tans and adventures with the weed whacker. Coors light is like liquified white bread, but without the flavor to make J.J Nissen proud.

While Coors defines “watery beer,” it’s somehow refreshing. It is what it is. This isn’t a beer that’s going to give you any sort of complex flavor profile (or any flavor profile at all), but it might be one worth drinking on a nice summer day.

C



MILWAUKEE’S BEST LIGHT

Largely considered the bottom-of-the-barrel beer, Milwaukee’s best is markedly different than its light beer counterparts. Effervescent to the highest degree allowed by law, Beast Light is remarkably crisp. Where Coors and Bud lack a defining flavor, Beast comes with an inviting graininess. Somehow that graininess teams up with a champagne-like arsenal of bubbles to produce a crisp and unusual light beer: one that steers away from the fizzy-water model so prevalent in the macro-brew market.

Don’t know what it is about beast, but it’s a true diamond in the rough. I wouldn’t recommend dabbling in the original Beast or Beast Ice, but the light version has just enough graininess to actually taste like beer and not fermented Dasani.

B



MILLER HIGH LIFE

The fact that Miller Brewing Company feels comfortable dubbing High Life “The Champagne of Beers” tells you something about the state of affairs. But, in a strange relativistic way, they’re not far off. Blending an almost-pleasing skunkiness and a smooth finish, High Life is a cheaper and less-cliched version of Corona. Cut from the same stinky cloth as beers like Rolling Rock, High Life is best consumed ice cold to mitigate the overwhelming skunkiness that rears its head with a rise in temperature. But if it’s cold enough, High Life has an inviting sour/citrus flavor that goes down smooth and outperforms the cereal-water flavor profile of its brother Miller Light.

The ultimate working person’s beer. That’s what I call High Life. It’s a hell of a lot classier than Beast, so you won’t take a hounding from your friends, but it’s cheap enough to buy on almost any purchase. Plus, in comparison to Bud and Coors, it’s basically Cristal.

B

Overall

Light beer is light beer no matter how you slice and dice it. But that doesn’t mean you have to slug down watered-down, completely flavorless beverages. There are tasty alternatives to the mainstream of Coors and Bud. They just might demand an acquired taste. Admittedly, what makes High Life and Beast so appealing is their ability to step out of line, which many people consider their faults. While none of these beers are worthy of medals, they’re all good (or at least decent) in their own unique ways.

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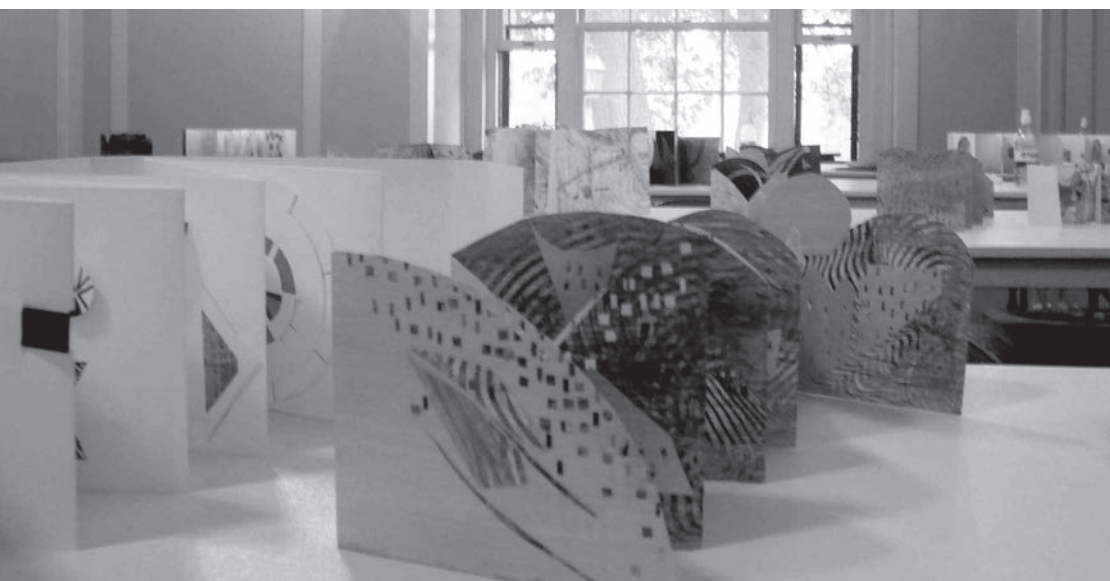
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GWENDOLYN MERRICK / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Books on display from last summer's Book Arts program at Stone House

Take a look, it's in a book

USM summer book arts program

Gwendolyn Merrick
Contributing Writer

You may have noticed a bit of book arts buzz on campus this year, due in large part to the presence of the Kate Cheney Chappell Center for Book Arts introduced this past fall. Maybe you've even had the opportunity to see one of the exhibits on display in the Glickman Library or the Wishcamper Center. And perhaps after viewing all of that carefully folded, painted, and carved work you wondered how you *too* could learn to create books like that.

Well, you're in luck, because USM offers a week-long summer Book Arts program, put together by Rebecca Goodale, USM faculty member and program coordinator for USM's Center for Book Arts. "I asked the art department to support this idea of mine about 5 years ago," says Goodale, adding, "This will be the 3rd year we have offered it."

The week of July 27 - August 2 will be filled with a wide range of topics including coptic binding, victorian photographs, long stitch binding and slip case, printmaking as well as workshops that focus on the relationships between form and content. During the course each student will have the opportunity to work with eight different instructors in the workshops.

The first pleasure that awaits you is the scenic drive to get to this course, since it is not held in a stuffy summer classroom but at USM's Stone House, a waterfront

estate designed by John Calvin Stevens. To get there you must journey to an isolated area off of Wolfe's Neck, past rolling fields and pastureland, over dirt roads with tree branch canopies, and you don't stop until you hit the ocean. This description makes it sound a world away, but in reality it's about a 15 minute drive from the shops in Freeport. It's an ideal spot for inspiration and for making art.

Novices need not be afraid, though. Take it from me, as a participant of last summer's program who hadn't taken an art class since elementary school, this experience is not about getting caught up with the perfection of a finished product. It's about embracing the process and giving yourself permission to learn new techniques and methods. The instructors are all patient and encouraging and aware that not everyone arrives with the same skills set. I have since used what I learned last summer to make a bookcloth-covered box to hold my senior portfolio and it was an incredibly rewarding feeling.

Those with lots of artistic experience will also find the program engaging. USM employee and summer book arts veteran Domenica Cipollone notes that book arts encompasses so many of her lifelong loves and newly identified ones too (calligraphy, painting and collage, to name a few.) Also, as a writer and poet the different book forms present a wide range of options in presenting her work. "The inten-

sive focus of it is special too," Cipollone says. "You can really set your life aside and focus on something that enriches you. You come out of that week changed."

The book arts program draws people back again and again. Cipollone said that the first year was such a gift to herself that she decided to schedule her vacation around it to fully experience it again the following year.

Ann Siteman, another book arts alum, was first introduced to the medium after taking Rebecca Goodale's Visual Book class three years ago and became smitten. "I have learned more at the Stone House than I have had time to incorporate in my book making. Some things I may never use again, but the classes have given me enough information and experience to continue on my own."

If you attend the summer program be ready to challenge your idea of what a book is. Books are one of the most common art forms we encounter, especially in a college or university context. They are ubiquitous and can be taken for granted. They can be containers of knowledge or entertainment. But they can also be a sculptural form that knits words and images together, asking your viewer to choose how to interact with them.

For more information about the course call the Summer Session office at 207-780-5617 or visit usm.maine.edu/summer/special/bookart.



Cover of Words and Images, drawing by Katie Diamond

Combining different forms of art

Review of Words and Images 2009

Danica Koenig

Arts & Entertainment Editor

This year's Words and Images is a different sort of art journal than it has been in previous years. In the past there have been three different sections to the journal, or three different genres of art: poetry, prose, and visual art. This year the Words and Images staff decided to do things a little differently.

Words and Images is a literary magazine run by USM that accepts submissions of poetry, fiction, and art from people all over the country, anyone is able to submit materials. The magazine is published every year in the spring.

In the introduction to the magazine the staff states what type of work they asked for this year: "We wanted to see literature that explores the boundaries between artistic media, finding the places where they can overlap, intersect, affect, and inform one another, finding pulchritude in the merging of what is usually seen as being disparate and mutually exclusive." In other words, the poetry they published is not strictly about poetry, but poetry about other types of art.

Benjamin Rybeck, the publishing director of the journal, describes this blending of art disciplines. "We asked for pieces that deal with the ways in which artistic media affect one another," Rybeck said. "I know that it will seem to people like there are fewer pieces of 'visual art' in the journal than in some previous issues, but there are also stories and poems about film, painting, theater, and pop music."

The pieces of this journal are very strong indeed. One of the strengths of Words and Images is that it publishes the writings of young and new writers alongside writers such as Elizabeth Searle, Gibson Fay-LeBlanc, and Adrian Blevins. One amazing story about a ukulele, "Ukulele Me," is written by sixteen-year-old Zoe Woodbury High.

One of the more touching parts of the journal is a type of memorial to a writer, artist and scientist who died in 2004, Bern Porter. One of Porter's goals with his work was to break down barriers between different art forms and between art and science. Mark Melnicove, a local poet and good friend of Porter wrote a poem about his late friend, which is published in the journal along with six of Porter's unpublished photographs.

The staff members are all very proud of the way the journal turned out this year. Rybeck stated that the journal could not have happened without the hard work of each staff member. "I'm proud of this journal, and proud of the work that every member of the staff did," Rybeck said.

There will be a release party to celebrate the publication of this year's Words and Images, on Thursday, May 7 from 7:30- 11 p.m. at One Longfellow Square in Portland. The event is free and open to the public. Copies of Words and Images will be on sale for \$10 each. There will also be local bands playing: Marie Stella, Huak and The Scrapes. If one cannot make the party but still would like to buy a copy of the journal, they will also be for sale at Longfellow Books, the USM Campus Bookstores and other local bookstores.

Rybeck and the rest of the staff hope that USM students will support their hard work by coming to the release party or at least picking up a copy of Words and Images. The collection of writings and art should be interesting and pleasing to anyone who enjoys quality art. Rybeck added that even the staff still enjoys re-reading the pieces.

"I'm extremely happy with it. I have had to read the pieces in this journal many, many times during the publication process, and I'm still excited by them," Rybeck said. "In fact, when I get my copy of the journal, and after the release party is over, I plan on sitting down and reading it again."

"The Transition of Minor Skies" to screen at Space Gallery

The most recent film by USM student Jeff Griecci, part of MINT Films, "The Transition of Minor Skies" is going to be shown at Space Gallery in Portland on Wednesday, May 20 in its first Portland public screening. The showing will be from 5- 10 p.m. and will feature a screening of the feature film, as well as a screening of MINT Films' short documentary "Murphy's Law." There will also be a Question and Answer session with the cast and crew. So come see an amazing film and support local filmmakers in Portland!





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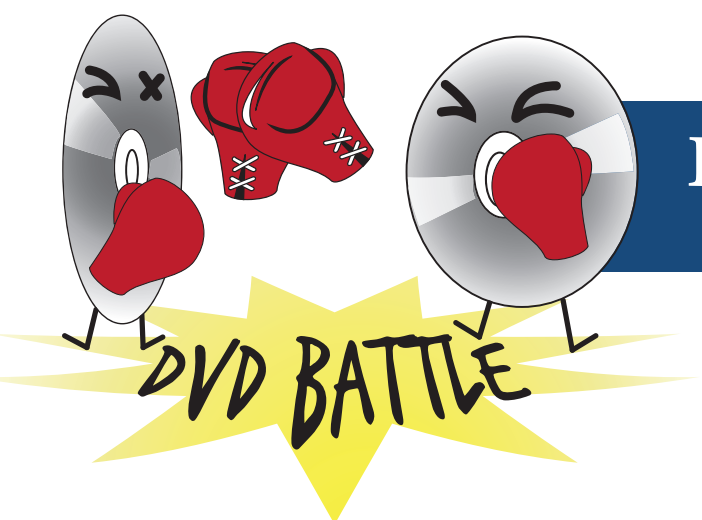
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Battle of the bands

They Might Be Giants vs. Metallic vs. Quincy Jones vs. Don't Look Back vs. Spinal Tap

David O'Donnell
Staff Writer



Gigantic: A Tale of Two Johns

The two Johns being John Linnell and John Flansburgh of They Might Be Giants, beloved musical institution for self-conscious dorks everywhere. The Brooklyn duo's specialty is crafting gratingly catchy pop songs; the twist(s) are that they used to do it with computers in dingy apartments, and now that they can afford an honest band, they continue to rely on lyrics that tell off-beat stories through unreliable narrators with bloated vocabularies. It's like an aural trap for high school science clubs and teen NPR donors!

The documentary ups the ante, downplaying their goofiness but featuring stories and testimonials from folks like Ira Glass, Sarah Vowell, Frank Black, Harry Shearer, Janeane Garofalo and Andy Richter.

You'd be right to expect a *Crumb*-like inspection of the two cult leaders, but no dice: this is a giddy tribute produced by and for the fan club.

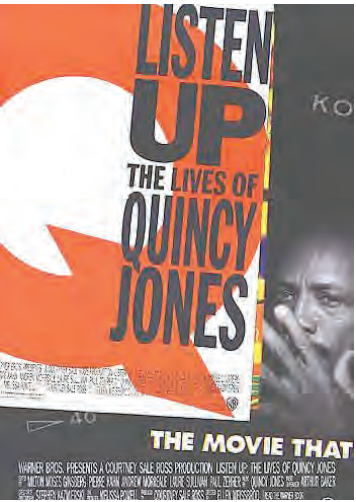


Metallica: Some Kind of Monster

But in a strangely just twist of fate, Metallica does get the 'freaks in the wilderness' documentary treatment.

Their problem is that they're not so bright. Their sin is that they've given up exploiting their down-home, trailer park metal-ness in favor of taking themselves far too seriously. Lars even fancies himself an art critic and psychologist in addition to Lord of the drums, so the cruel, cruel filmmakers let him pontificate at length in order to get out of virtually every scene with a cheap laugh.

The light at the end of the tunnel was supposed to be their St. Anger record, which the internet tells me was loathed by fans, so "Some Kind of Monster" even has a happy ending. Part of me wishes there was an interpretation of this movie that didn't involve feeling morally and intellectually superior to a pack of multimillionaires, but that'll do.



Listen Up: The Lives of Quincy Jones

My inner dialogue during "Listen Up: The Lives of Quincy Jones"

--

Hmm...jumping right into Quincy's childhood abuse, interesting. Why are we looking at his hands? Wait, he didn't finish his sentence, why is Ray Charles talking now? Okay, we're back at Quincy. Is that a re-enactment? Whose playing that piano? Wow, Quincy Jones had a rough childhood. No, let him finish his sentence!

I feel like I failed the filmmakers by coming to this movie without hallucinogens coursing through my veins. Doesn't diminish Michael Jackson's Off The Wall one bit, though.



Don't Look Back

We discussed Mr. Dylan at length last week, but one look at this and you won't understand how I offer up anything warm and fuzzy about the guy. He's a genuine ass in this film, sometimes with hilarious results, and forty years later his people put Martin Scorsese up to the task of undoing it with the PBS docu-musical "No Direction Home." The latter possibly overdid the idea that Bobby was nearly martyred for going electric, thus explaining some of his dickishness in this D.H. Pennybacker's classic. I believe he now claims that he was just hamming it up for the camera - which is also Arnold Schwarzenegger's defense for the evil he creates (and joints smoked) in the weightlifting documentary *Pumping Iron*. You'd tell your grandkids and/or constituents the same thing.



The winner...

This Is Spinal Tap

Most predictable...winner...ever. But sometimes when I'm sitting in the shower, thinking about Spinal Tap, I wonder if it can possibly hit home for future generations. Myself, I'm just young enough to have flipped the TV remote over to MTV while my mother was on the phone to catch some scandalous Poison and Whitesnake videos. And they were the *second* wave of the kind of dumbass commercial metal that's satirized to perfection in "This Is...Spinal Tap!" Once Aerosmith finally (mercifully) calls it quits, where will the cultural reference points be?

But Spinal Tap will always be funny - because Nigel Tufnel will always say "but this one goes up to 11" with the blankest look possible, or respond that his lovely classical piano composition is titled "Suck My Love-Pump."

But personally, I'm holding out for the next classic rock revival, just so my son can appreciate this movie on a deeper level. It's not enough to giggle, you should feel why Steven Tyler says he literally broke his television out of anger upon first seeing it on VHS.

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Baseball dominates Plymouth State

Gorham to host conference final four

Mike Tardiff

Sports Editor

Everything went as planned for the USM baseball team as they ousted Plymouth State College from the Little East Conference tournament in dominating fashion. The Huskies bombarded the Panthers 19-3 in the first game before slamming the door 8-1 in the nightcap.

Junior Collin Henry (Penobscot) paced USM on the mound and at the plate. In the afternoon's decisive game, Henry went eight innings on the hill. He surrendered just three hits while striking out eight. At the plate, the former Mr. Baseball collected four extra base hits, including a home run. He drove in four runs.

In the first game, senior Tim Therrian (New Portland) snagged his eighth win of the season (8-0) and was the beneficiary of serious run support. Therrian allowed two runs over the first two innings to give the Panthers an early 2-0 lead. But, as has been the case all year, the Huskies stormed back with a big inning, exploding for seven runs in the home half of the second. The Huskies continued to pour it on, though, adding five runs in both the fifth and sixth innings, staking themselves to a 17-3 lead.

Sophomore Mike Eaton (Sabattus) added the punctuation mark when he blasted a two-run shot over the 406 sign in right-center field.

Game two featured less offense, but a similar result.

Junior Josh Mackey (Danvers) got things rolling for the Huskies when his sacrifice fly scored



The baseball team continued their winning ways this weekend, trouncing Plymouth State in the opening round of the Little East tournament. The Huskies won the first game 19-3 and prevailed 8-1 in the nightcap. The Huskies now play host to the tournament's final four later this week.

BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

senior Chris Burleson (Portland). Senior Ryan Pike (Saco) then added all the offense Henry would need when he drove in a run in the second inning, as did classmate Ryan Gaffney (Salem, NH).

USM's next run was an historic one. Senior Anthony D'Alfonso

(Westbrook) plated Mackey on sacrifice fly, bringing his season RBI total to 71 - a new school record. Henry then proceeded to hit a towering shot over the right-field fence to all but seal the Panther's fate.

All told the Huskies banded out 25 hits. Mackey finished the day

with three hits and six RBI, while lone freshman starter Anthony Pisani (Cheshire, CT) had possibly his strongest showing as a Husky. The rookie cranked out five hits over two games, including three doubles.

The Huskies advance to play UMass Boston on Thursday

in Gorham. The game starts at noon.

UMass Boston handed the Huskies one of their five losses on the season just over a week ago in a 5-0 stunner.

From LAX on page 16

while reflecting on the successes of this one.

"This season, despite its challenges, was very rewarding for me!" Reid exclaimed. "It was so exciting to see individuals as well as the entire team break through and begin to bring their game to the next level. Overall I'd say it was a successful season of setting a high standard for what's to come from this program in the near future."

Reid, who will be able to handle the team more effectively with her first year out of the way, expects to see more

people added to the roster, giving the team extra depth and a greater capacity to win those close games that seem to fall just out of reach.

"I am ecstatic about next season already! I get almost all of this season's team back again next year and won't have to spend as much time establishing expectations and focusing on fundamentals," Reid says. "I am expecting spring 2010 to give us an exciting winning season!"

From CUTS on page 16

scope of cuts to maintenance and recruitment, the school's plan to install a turf-field complex are still alive and well.

USM's President Selma Botman recognizes the athletic department's need for such a venue and has, to date, allowed plans to continue.

It is likely that the turf field could actually be a wise investment for the university, allowing teams to play home games in Gorham when they would otherwise have to travel to

other facilities during inclement weather.

The University of Maine recently converted Mahaney Diamond, the school's baseball field, into an all-turf facility, allowing for early-season play that had theretofore been unrealistic. UMaine baseball coach Steve Trimper has stated that the field can save the team thousands of dollars during the course of a season by removing potential travel expenses.



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Husky Highlights

MEN’S OUTDOOR TRACK

Men’s outdoor track and field with strong showing at New Englands

The USM men’s track and team posted an impressive eighth place finish, just 11 points outside of the top three at the 2009 New England Division III championships. The Huskies garnered two titles at the event in the 4x400 meter relay and the decathlon, as well as several other strong showings. For the second straight weekend, the relay team of freshmen Justin Vigeant (Wells) and Jake Moore (Bridgton), sophomore Corey Gobbi (Haverhill, MA) and senior Doug Mercer (Laconia, NH) broke their own school record. Senior James Spaulding (Lewiston) won the decathlon even with a school record 6,679 points, automatically qualifying him for Nationals. Senior distance runner Tyler Jasud (Rumford) posted a second place finish in the 5,000-meter event, while his freshman counterpart Alex Gomes (Peabody, MA) finished eighth.

MEN’S LAX

Men’s LAX squeaks past Salem State

Despite Salem State’s best efforts, the USM men’s lacrosse

team prevailed to a 9-8 victory in Little East Conference first round action. Down 7-3 in the fourth quarter, Salem State went on a 5-1 run to tie the game 8-8. Senior Preston Gilbert (Saco) then netted his second goal of the quarter with 3:33 remaining to give the third-seeded Huskies a narrow win over the sixth-seeded Vikings. Freshman Dan Thomas (Shrewsbury, MA) added to Gilbert’s two goals and two assists with three goals of his own to power the USM offense. The Huskies lost 16-4 in their semi-final game against Keene State later in the week.

MEN’S TENNIS

Men’s Tennis ousts Western Connecticut in quarterfinals

Sophomore Zach Caron (North Conway, NH) secured USM’s 5-2 victory over Western Connecticut in Little East Conference tournament action when he defeated his opponent 7-5, 6-0. The Huskies also got wins from junior Josh Warren (Heron) and senior Derek Stevenson (Raymond) in singles play. In doubles action, Warren and Stevenson teamed up to snag another crucial point. Junior Steven Lent (New Sharon, NH) and senior Matt McGowan (Waterville) were also victorious in their doubles match.

SPORTS

GUEST COLUMN

A case for priority registration for athletes

During my final two years at the University of Southern Maine, I participated in the athletic department on the men’s soccer team. This was my first experience as a student athlete since high school. And I must admit, being a student athlete was different than I had remembered.

At USM, I did not feel so much like a student athlete, as much as an athletic student. This past fall semester, I missed nearly half of my team’s practices. I had to miss these practices for classes that I needed to graduate. Other players missed more than I did and very few players could regularly attend practice. The combination of different players being unavailable on different days each week resulted in our team’s inability to train consistently.

I also missed the team’s final playoff game in the ECAC tournament against Wentworth. I missed what would have been the final game of my collegiate career because a professor wouldn’t excuse me from an exam.

The athletic department and the

NCAA have worked hard to put academics first in the lives of athletes. For example, it is an NCAA violation to miss any portion of a class for any portion of a practice. Mike Keller, Men’s Soccer Coach, shared that “coaches have been working hard to get their players organized academically” in an attempt to maintain a consistent practice schedule.

The USM administration has taken an important step in the direction that many coaches have been walking for years. With the recent implementation of priority registration for athletes, the school is slowly transforming its players from athletic students to student athletes.

Pre registration allows student athletes to sign up for classes twenty four hours earlier than they would normally be allowed. For example, senior athletes sign up one day before all other seniors, junior athletes sign up at the same time as senior non-athletes and so on. This will enable current upper classman to get into the specific classes they need

in anticipation of graduation. But even more than that, priority registration will enable underclassman athletes to set themselves up for success in both their college career and athletic career. Bryce Koloseus, a freshman soccer player at USM, shared that “pre registration has given me motivation to invest more in my class schedule and my classes.”

Considering that last year’s soccer team won the LEC title without having a hard and fast training schedule, it’s hard to say what the future has in store for USM sports teams. Now that students will be able to develop schedules which allow for their lives on and off the field, students will be able to adequately fulfill both ends of their title. They will be the best possible students, while remaining competitive and successful athletes.

Brian King is a sports intern at the Free Press and is also a student athlete at USM.

SCOREBOARD (4/28- 5/2)		
Baseball		
St. Joseph's	4/29	USM
8		7
USM	4/30	Babson
15		9
USM	5/2	Plymouth State
19		3
USM	5/2	Plymouth State
8		1
Softball		
Rhode Island College	4/30	USM
6		2
Keene State	4/30	USM
5		0
Men's Lax		
USM	4/28	Salem State
9		8
Keene State	4/30	USM
16		4
Womens's LAX		
UMass Dartmouth	4/28	USM
12		11
Men's Tennis		
USM	4/28	Connecticut
5		2
Salem	5/1	USM
5		4

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Newsday Crossword

JOIN IN by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Scottish girl
 - 5 Madly in love
 - 9 Rotini or rigatoni
 - 14 Carpet measurement
 - 15 Altar vows
 - 16 Moral principle
 - 17 High-school science: Abbr.
 - 18 Clutter-free
 - 19 Exact copy
 - 20 Breakfast-plate item
 - 23 Stop-sign color
 - 24 Reduce, as prices
 - 25 One way to cook chicken
 - 27 Wild guesses
 - 30 Office crews
 - 33 Light-switch settings
 - 36 High-tech message
 - 38 Gas-tank contents
 - 39 Helicopter blade
 - 41 Improve, as wine
 - 42 Sauce made with basil
 - 43 English nobleman
 - 44 Sleeveless shoulder wrap
 - 46 Have lunch
 - 47 Police officer's badge
 - 50 Secret agents
 - 52 Not a single person
 - 54 Measuring device
 - 57 Gas-consumption figure: Abbr.
 - 59 Government-issued investment
 - 63 Convertibles, e.g.

- 65 One who's admired
- 66 Not on time
- 67 Playground fixture
- 68 Detective's lead
- 69 Fencing weapon
- 70 Snow vehicles
- 71 See to
- 72 Time in office

DOWN

- 1 Science classrooms
- 2 Opera solos
- 3 Capital of South Korea
- 4 Tex-Mex dips
- 5 Checked cotton fabric
- 6 "Zip-__-Doo-Dah"
- 7 Soccer score

- 8 Up and about
- 9 Nibble like a bird
- 10 Pacific counterpart: Abbr.
- 11 Quick temper
- 12 Fork prong
- 13 Scored 100 on
- 21 Late-blooming flower
- 22 Phone-book listings: Abbr.
- 26 Strongbox relative
- 28 Sheep sounds
- 29 Sorrowful sounds
- 31 Greek cheese
- 32 Vending-machine opening
- 33 Rocks that are mined

- 34 Biblical shipbuilder
- 35 Narrow neckwear
- 37 Jump
- 40 Toast topping
- 42 "Guilty" and "not guilty"
- 45 Squirmed
- 48 Sports setbacks
- 49 Genetic letters
- 51 Re-rent one's apartment
- 53 Kick out
- 55 Rant and rave
- 56 Walk in
- 57 Church service
- 58 Haul
- 60 Doing nothing
- 61 Person, place or thing
- 62 Consider
- 64 Sort of peculiar

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5/4/09

RANDOM FACT!

Picky linguists will tell you that the feminine version of "dude" is "dudine," not "dudette."

For more random facts go to:
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Coming up just short

Women's LAX highly competitive despite lackluster record



JASON JOHNS / USM ATHLETICS PHOTOGRAPHER

USM's women's lacrosse team's 12-11 loss to UMass Dartmouth in LEC tournament action was a fitting ending to their season. The Huskies' season was marked by heart-breaking losses and close contests. But that's not deterring head coach Lauren Reid. She's already got her sights set on the 2010 campaign.

Sarah Violette
Staff Writer

After suffering a heart-breaking, 13-11 loss to the Keene State Owls, the USM women's lacrosse team fired themselves up for another intense showdown against UMass-Dartmouth in the first round of the LEC conference tournament.

In what coach Lauren Reid called, "a game of inches where every play mattered," the Huskies came up just short in the final minutes and were knocked out of the tournament in a gut-wrenching 12-11 loss.

Unfortunately for the Huskies, it was agonizing losses like these that became a recurring pattern throughout the season

"It broke my heart, but we had a lot of opportunities to win the game and unfortunately weren't able to finish when we needed to. The girls played with a lot of heart and hustle," said Reid, who just finished her first year at the helm

After breaking a 9-9 tie with 14:24 remaining in the second half, UMD took an 11-9 lead for a solid three and a half minutes until senior attacker Caitlin Albert (Scarborough) scored her lone goal of the game to cut the lead to within one.

The Corsairs responded quick-

ly, though, and managed to tack on their last goal of the game to make the score 12-10 with 9:34 left to go.

Two minutes later, junior Mary Vaughan (Brunswick, ME) scored her third goal of the game to pull the Huskies to within one.

Despite an intense offensive attack, the Huskies failed to capitalize on a number of scoring opportunities, ending their season on yet another hard fought loss.

"Our defense worked so hard and our offense made some great connections, but in the end it was the simple fundamentals of the game that we let up and lost out on," Reid added. Reid, The 22-year-old Portland native, led her team to a solid 6-10 record on the season. The greatest thing a win and loss record often fails to show, however, are the potetial capabilities a striving team often displays but struggles to fully capture.

It was that kind of season for the Huskies, with over half of their ten losses being decided by four goals or less. This season as a whole was a matter of inches for the Huskies.

"6-10 does not show what these girls are capable of by any means," Reid says. "I would say the last third of our regular season was when we really became the team I knew we could be. It took

us a while to figure out how to match up our mental game with our physical game, but once we started to, we stayed on a steady incline."

With a fitting last game to summarize the Huskies 2009 season, coach Reid will anxiously await the start of her second season

See **LAX** on page 13



JASON JOHNS / USM ATHLETICS PHOTOGRAPHER

USM athletics bending but not breaking

Deeper cuts could result in program eliminations

Ben Slagle
Sports Intern

Budget cuts rarely show favoritism. Recently, the slumping economy has resulted in many schools making crucial cost-saving decisions regarding their athletic programs.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), for instance, recently cut eight of its 41 inter-collegiate sports in order to make ends meet. Closer to home, the University of Maine dropped two programs - men's soccer and women's volleyball - in order to streamline their athletic department.

USM, unfortunately, is not immune to this recent trend. But, as of yet, budget cuts have remained primarily below the surface. However, Al Bean, the school's Director of Athletics is not ruling anything out.

"If budget cuts go deeper, we will have to look at [cutting programs]. We've avoided it thus far, but there are not many other places to go for additional cuts."

Right now, the department is employing a sort of "bend-but-don't-break" policy, whereby smaller cuts are made in order to preserve entire programs.

Most notably, the department reduced the women's lacrosse head-coaching position from a full-time to part-time position. By reducing benefits and salary, the department incurred a net savings for \$45,000.

Similarly, substantial cuts have been made in maintenance and recruitment funds, totaling \$50,000 and \$30,000 respectively. The department has also tapped into revenue produced by the school's ice arena, which plays host to non-university events.

From a student-athlete's perspective the cuts have been noticeable but not devastating. Athletes are now more likely to travel in mini-buses than in large coach buses as was previously the norm. Student-athletes have also seen changes in their pre-season and break meal plans, which are used when the cafeteria is closed.

"For some it hasn't looked painful because we haven't had to eliminate anything noticeable to students, but there are big internal sorts of things that have been happening."

However, despite the size and

See **CUTS** on page 13



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRANDON SMITH / PRODUCTION INTERN

So far the athletic department has avoided major cuts. Instead, a series of internal cuts has freed up some money. Al Bean, the school's director of athletics warns, however, that program eliminations are not out of the question.